(b) During the financial years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86, the revenue of Telecommunications was more than the expenditure and the revenue of Posts was less than the expenditure.

(c) Expected revenue during the current financial year 1986-87 after taking into account the recent increase in postal rates will be of the order of Rs. 563.00 crores.

(d) Compilation of this information from the individual records of over 30 lakh telephone and telex subscribers will involve considerable time and labour which may not be commensurate with the results to be achieved.

Post Offices and Postmen in the Country

855. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) number of postmen in the country till December 31st, 1986;

(b) number of postmen in the country till December, 1986?

(c) number of postmen recruited during the last five years;

(d) number of post offices in the country five years ago; and

(e) number of post offices in the country till December, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Total number of posts of postmen at the beginning of Financial year 1986 was 53,800. The corresponding number at the beginning of Financial year 1981 was 50,476.

(c) Approximately 3320.

(d) and (e) The number of post offices in 1981 and 1986 was 1,40,435 and 1,44,065 respectively.

Subsidy given to State Transport Corporations

856. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the amount of subsidy given to the State Transport Corporations in Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and oher Metropolitan cities during the last 3 years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): No subsidy has been paid by the Central Government to State Transport Corporations in Metropolitan cities during the last 3 years.

Report of the Working Group for Development of a Central Council of Rural Institutes

857. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group on setting up new rural Institutes has submitted any report to the Government;

(b) if so what are the details thereof and the recommendations made; and

(c) what are the details of the recommendations accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The Working Group set up for the formulation of a detailed project for the development of rural institutes and for the establishment of Central Council of Rural Institutes has submitted Part A of the project report. However, the remaining part of the report is still awaited.

(b) Main recommendations contained in Part A of the project report are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) A view of the recommendations is possible only after the full project report is available.

Statement

The new pattern of Rural Institutes will develop its extension programme in such a way that it makes a real impact upon the development process in the selected villages. The new Rural Institute will be an instrument of social change.

The academic programme of the rural institutes will be employment-oriented. All the courses will be need-based and will perpare the students for useful roles in the rural communities.

The new Rural Institute will have a futuristic perspective and the degrees and diplomas awarded will have the same academic value as any other.

Academic autonomy and central accreditation in accordance with well-defined guidelines will be the other special features of the Rural Institute.

A Central Council of Rural Institutes (CCRI) is needed to ensure quality and maintain high standards in the new pattern of Rural Institutes. Besides disbursement of grants, the CCRI will identify and establish new Rural Institutes. It will function as a clearing house for collection and dissemination of knowledge and information concerning rural higher education.

The Central Council would provide expert advice to Rural Institutes, besides conducting and promoting research studies.

Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat

858. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of telephone exchanges that are functioning in various circles in Gujarat;

(b) what are their capacities;

(c) what is the number of telephone lines that are sanctioned through these exchanges in each of the last three years;

(d) what is the number of applicants in the waiting list in various telephone exchanges in Gujarat since 1984; and

(e) what is the number of new telephone lines which have been sanctioned in Gujarat since 1934?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The number of Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat Telecommunication Circle (Including Baroda, Rajkot and Surat Districts) and Ahmedabad Telephone District as on 31st December, 1986 are 819 and 17 respectively.

(b) The Capacity of Gujarat Telecommunication Circle (including Baroda, Rajkot and Surat Districts) and Ahmedabad Telephone District as on 31-12-86 is 233610 and 106900 lines respectively.

(c) The number of telephone lines that were sanctioned through these exchanges in each of the last three years are given in the enclosed. Statement (*See* below).

(d) The number of applicants in the waiting list in various telephone exchanges in Gujarat, including Ahmedabad Telephone District since 1934 is as under:

31-3-84.....77988
31-3-85.....86136
31-3-86.....100599